



*Tetraloche juncea.*

## TETRATHECA juncea.

*Rusby Tetratheca.*OCTANDRIA MONOGYNIA. *Fl. complete.*

GEN. CHAR. *Cal.* quadrifidus, inferus. *Cor.* tetrapetala.  
*Capsula* bilocularis, bivalvis; valvulis medio septiferis.  
*Semina* subbina.

*Cal.* four-cleft, inferior. *Cor.* of 4 petals. *Caps.* of  
 two cells and two valves, with the partition from  
 their middle. *Seeds* about two in each cell.

SPEC. CHAR. *T.* glabra, foliis alternis lanceolatis, caule  
 acutangulo, ramis elongatis nudiusculis.

Smooth. Leaves alternate, lanceolate. Stem with  
 sharp angles. Branches elongated, and almost naked.



TO this pretty genus, three species of which have  
 been sent from New South Wales, we have given the  
 name *Tetratheca*, on account of the curious structure of

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its

its *antheræ*, each of which consists of *four cells*, communicating with one common tube, the excretory duct of the pollen. In the construction of this name we run counter indeed to a precept of Linnæus (*Crit. Bot.* p. 44), and we do so because in that instance we think him in the wrong. After objecting, with reason, to generic names too similar in sound to each other, he is somewhat unmerciful in stigmatizing almost all that have any syllables in common, and wonders at Vaillant for using the termination *theca* at all. The word surely in itself is unexceptionable; and as all the generic names of Vaillant constructed with it, even *Tetragonotheca* (which Linnæus at first retained), are now laid aside, and therefore there can be no ambiguity, we hope to be excused for adopting *theca*, as it so precisely suits our purpose.

*Tetratheca* probably belongs to M. de Jussieu's order of *Ericæ*, not indeed that it answers well to his characters of that order, but it is allied to some of its genera, especially *Pyrola*. All its species are small shrubs with red flowers (varying to white), which retain their colour when dried.

*Tetratheca juncea* has a small woody *root*, which has some appearance of that of an annual plant. The *stem* is much branched, even from the base; the *branches* alternate, long and slender, very acutely triangular, and almost winged. *Leaves* mostly small and not numerous, alternate, lanceolate, entire. *Stipule* none. Each branch produces

produces a simple series of drooping *flowers*, in a racemose order, on simple capillary red footstalks, with a small leaf at the base of each. *Calyx* deeply cloven, obtuse. *Petals* obovate, crimson, paler on the outside, entire. *Stamina* equal; the *filaments* very short; *antheræ* slightly curved, with four blunt angles, and four furrows, brown, tipped with a pale simple tube, into which the four cells of the *anthera* open. *Germen* very small, obovate, compressed. *Style* short and simple. *Capsule* pendulous, obovate, compressed, pointed. *Seeds* two in each cell, one above the other, cylindrical, standing on a white twisted pedicle.

Every part is smooth. We have specimens of a variety with white petals, but the calyx and footstalk remain red.

#### EXPLANATION OF TAB. II.

1. Calyx and Footstalk.    2. Petal.    3. Stamina.
4. A Stamen magnified.    5. The same cut across.
6. Capsule.    7, 7. Seeds.